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REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1937.




L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Houghton-le-Spring,

May, 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I beg to present herewith the first Annual Report of the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring for the year 1937.

The change of boundaries taking effect on 1st April last (see Report) has made it impossible to compile a report which would show exactly the conditions in 1937 as compared with previous years.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

LILIAN A. M. JOHNSTON.

To the Chairman and Members,

Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The Staff consists of :—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Whole time appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews). The Medical Officer is the Medical Superintendent of the Council's Isolation Hospitals.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act.

SANITARY INSPECTOR — No. 2 District. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SANITARY INSPECTOR — No. 3 District. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER. Whole time. Fellow of Surveyors' Institute and holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

HEALTH VISITORS. Are appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council. They are fully qualified holding Nurses Certificates, etc.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS. Are also appointed and work under the direction of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the County Council.

MATRON OF THE NORTHERN ISOLATION HOSPITAL. Whole time. Fully trained in General and Fever Nursing.

Contribution is made by the Government to the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

The Tuberculosis, School Medical, Maternity or Child Welfare and Venereal Diseases Schemes are all administered directly by the County Council. The County Council also appoint the Public Assistance District Medical Officers and the Public Vaccinators.

The Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring is also the Public Assistance District Medical Officer for the No. 52 district of the No. 10 (Houghton and Chester-le-Street) Guardian's Committee area (i.e. for the old parishes of Warden Law and Houghton-le-Spring), Public Vaccinator for the No. 24 District, Co. Durham, and acts as Medical Officer of the local Public Assistance Hospital, Institution and Cottage Homes.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—5013 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid year 1937—29,490

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books—
7,658.

Rateable Value—£100,679.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£348.

Alteration of Area.

On the first of April, 1937, there was a general alteration of districts throughout the County under the County of Durham Review Order, 1937. In this locality the change resulted in the abolition of the old Houghton-le-Spring Rural District and the old Houghton-le-Spring Urban District with the formation of a new area consisting of the whole of the old Urban District with approximately two thirds of the old Rural District to form the new Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring.

This has led to difficulties on the part of the Registrar-General in compiling statistics and the figures supplied by him show a decided increase on those compiled locally which have been corrected in every way. It is doubtless due to the fact that to those who did not know the area intimately it would be impossible to completely separate those figures belonging to that part of the old Rural District which was amalgamated with other areas.

In the case of infectious diseases the exact figures as known to your Medical Officer and the Registrar-General's estimated population for mid-year 1937 have been used as the basis of all calculation.

The exact number of births being only known to the Registrar-General, his figures have been strictly adhered to here. In the case of deaths his figures have also been used in the calculation of rates with a population figure which has been supplied for this purpose and which permits approximate comparison with the rest of the country. The corrected death rate as known is also shown and will be available for comparative purposes in future years.

As the component parts of the new district shared the same principal industries and the conditions were similar, the inhabitants all live under similar social conditions.

Social Conditions and Chief Industries.

About three quarters of the male population in the area work in the local coal mines. There was still a considerable amount of unemployment, at certain periods actually an increase, and many of those working were receiving the minimum amount of wages. New schemes such as the new sewage works at Sedgeleth and the alterations on Houghton Cut gave temporary employment to a number of men, and house building occupied various others. The staple industries in the district, shops, agriculture, electric and gas supply work are all affected in direct ratio to the income of the populace.

Malnutrition is not generally evident — on the whole children suffer probably less than their mothers. The supply of free milk at school has helped a large number of the youngsters. Unfortunately a certain number object to the taste of the pasteurised milk. This has probably been the basis of some of the complaints that the milk was not good, for it has been found in almost every case when samples have been taken that the quality is satisfactory. The County Council exercise supervision both at the place of production and the pasteurising plant. It would certainly be a tremendous benefit if arrangements could be made to supply necessitous school children all through the holidays and to provide the morning ration about 10 a.m., since it would not spoil the appetite for the mid-day meal and would be particularly appreciated by those who had had a small breakfast.

Vital Statistics.

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (corrected by Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1937 was 571.

The Registrar-General's provisional figures for the compilation of these statistics estimates the population at 31,330.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus :—

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	571	266	285	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population 18.19
	{ Illegitimate	20	8	12	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 14.9 for 1937.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births (2) the number of males born (3) the number of females born (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1937.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1937	571	274	285	18.9	210

Still Births—During 1937 there were 18 still births in the district.

		Total	Male	Female	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	15	7	8	} giving a Rate of 30.56 per 1000 total (live and still births) births
	{ Illegitimate ...	3	3	0	

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.58 in the district as compared with 0.60 for England and Wales. There is no doubt in my mind that this is connected with the economic conditions prevalent, as these undoubtedly lead to unsuccessful and unsatisfactory methods of birth control.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 361 residents in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District died, being 194 males and 167 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 11.49. .

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows :—

During 1937 there were 285 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 141 males and 144 females. Of these 2 males and 14 females did not normally reside in the area, therefore 139 males and 130 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 46 males and 21 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers, is 336, being 185 males and 151 females.

The death rate corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 11.39, the population at mid year 1937 being estimated to be 29,490. This figure of 11.39 closely approximates that of 11.49 calculated from the Registrar-General's return.

The Registrar-General has calculated the death rate for England and Wales with a view to age — sex distribution and supplies a factor for obtaining a "crude" death rate for the district that it may be more fairly compared with that for England and Wales. Such crude death rate in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District was 13.44 (using the locally corrected 11.39 death rate and a comparability factor of 1.18) as against 12.4 for England and Wales.

Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1937, 46 children died under the age of five years. Therefore 14.3 per cent. of the total deaths was of deaths of children under 5 years of age.

Deaths in Institutions.

Of the 63 residents who died outside the district, 3 died in private houses and 1 at work. The remaining 59 died in Institutions, as follows :—

Sunderland Royal Infirmary	...	...	...	...	34
Wolsingham Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	1
Sunderland Children's Hospital	...	...	...	...	4
Durham County Mental Hospital, Sedgfield	...	...	...	...	5
Sunderland Municipal Hospital	...	...	...	...	1
Mowbray Maternity Home, Sunderland	...	...	...	...	2
Relton House, Chester-le-Street	...	...	...	...	11
Sunderland Rural District Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium					2
Leeholme, Easington	...	...	...	...	2
Oaklands, Bishop Auckland	...	...	...	...	1

3 residents in the district died in the Northern Isolation Hospital, Philadelphia, and 17 in Heath House, therefore of the total 336 deaths of residents, 79 or 23.5% occurred in institutions.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There were 2 deaths of women from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes, viz. : one from sepsis following miscarriage (not criminal) and one from toxæmia during pregnancy.

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 live births	Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	1	1.69	1.75
Other Puerperal Causes ...	1	1.69	1.75
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 3.38	<hr/> 3.5

The figures for England and Wales were :—

Death Rate per 1000 live births from Puerperal Sepsis	0.97
Death Rate per 1000 live births from Other Puerperal Causes	2.26
	<hr/> Total ... 3.23
Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births from Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.94
Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births from other Puerperal Causes ...	2.17
	<hr/> Total ... 3.11

Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

38 children died during 1937 (local figures corrected) before attaining the age of 1 year, being 23 legitimate males, 14 legitimate females and 1 illegitimate female.

The Registrar-General's return shows that 44 children died under 1 year of age, being 26 legitimate males and 17 legitimate females and 1 illegitimate female.

The death rate of infants under one year of age is based on the latter figures and is shown according to the total number of live births and legitimacy.

All infants per 1000 live births	77.1
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ...	78.0
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	200

It will be noted from Table II. that the largest number of infantile deaths occurred in Penshaw Ward, for 12 died in Penshaw, 9 in Houghton, 8 in Newbottle, 4 in Herrington and 5 in Fence Houses.

For the purpose of these and following statistics the population of the various wards has been taken as follows :—

Houghton	...	8996
Penshaw	...	6974
Newbottle	...	5023
Fence Houses	...	4703
Herrington	...	3794

The ratio of infantile deaths per 1000 population is :—

Houghton Ward	...	1.00
Penshaw Ward	...	1.72
Newbottle Ward	...	1.59
Fence Houses Ward	...	1.06
Herrington Ward	...	1.21

Of the 38 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributable to congenital malformation, prematurity and debility in 19 cases, giving a percentage of 50%.

The following table shows in detail the amount and causes of infantile deaths under one year of age during 1937, and also the number of deaths at the various ages, viz. :— 12 under one week, 3 between 1 and 2 weeks, 5 between 2 and 3 weeks, 6 between 4 weeks and 3 months, 6 between 3 months and 6 months, 1 between 6 months and 9 months, 5 between 9 months and 12 months, a total of 38.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 336, 11.0 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age 31.6 per cent. were under one week and 52.6 per cent. under four weeks of age.

Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December, 1937.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death			Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes {	Certified ...	...	12	3	5	0	20	6	6	1	5	38
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Whooping-cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tubercular Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Convulsions ...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	3
{	Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
{	Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	2	1	1	7
	Diarrhœa ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
	Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Suffocation, overlying ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Injury at Birth... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Atelectasis ...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Congenital Malformations	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{	Premature Birth ...	...	8	2	...	...	10	2	...	...	...	12
	Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	2	5
{	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other causes ...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	3
			12	3	5	0	20	6	6	1	5	38

Nett Live Births—Legitimate.

Illegitimate

Males. Females.

Males. Females.

Corrected as per Registrar General ... } 266 285 8 12 = 571

Nett Deaths— 23 14 0 1 = 38
Local Corrected Figures.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e. Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Houghton	31	32	33	28	124
Penshaw	26	13	16	23	78
Newbottle	17	16	15	8	56
Fence Houses	13	14	10	8	45
Herrington	10	11	3	9	33
<i>Totals</i>	97	86	77	76	336

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65-75 years.	75 years & over.	Total.
Houghton	9	1	2	2	3	12	38	32	25	124
Penshaw	12	1	1	3	3	5	21	18	14	78
Newbottle	8	...	1	2	3	4	21	8	9	56
Fence Houses	5	...	1	1	2	4	7	10	15	45
Herrington	4	...	1	2	2	5	7	6	6	33
<i>Total</i>	38	2	6	10	13	30	94	74	69	336

During the year under consideration there were 9 deaths from the chief zymotic diseases, giving a death rate from this cause of 0.30 per 1000 population. There were 5 deaths from infantile diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 3 from diphtheria and 1 from whooping cough.

Cancer.

There were 36 deaths during 1937 stated by the Registrar-General to be due to Cancer and malignant diseases. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 1.15, compared with 1.63 per 1000 population for the country.

Education is only too slowly leading the people to realise that cancer can be cured if discovered early enough. Far too many suffer in silence, dreading to seek advice until pain becomes too severe and they are compelled to approach their med-

ical adviser. If those with any unusual swelling, discharge or indefinite stomach trouble sought help early, many thousands of cases could be cured. Treatment is given at Sunderland Infirmary, but Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary is the big centre for treatment for the North.

The locally compiled figures (corrected for outward and inward transfers) show that 34 deaths were due to cancer and malignant diseases equal to a death rate of 1.15.

The site of the lesions and sex distribution was as follows : Gastric, 1 male 49, 2 females 58 and 69 ; Colon 3 males 75, 56 and 47, 3 females 65, 65 and 72 ; Uterus, 1 female 71 ; Mandible, 2 males 56 and 69 ; Rodent Ulcer, 1 female 82 ; Breast, 4 females 73, 54, 64 and 33 ; Pharynx, 1 male 76 ; Tongue, 2 males 76 and 73 ; Rectum, 2 males 63 and 49, 1 female 53 ; Pancreas, 1 female 52 ; Skin, 1 male 62 ; Brain, 1 male 22 ; Kidney, 1 male 38 ; Bladder, 1 male 57 ; Caecum, 2 male 71 and 67, 1 female 67 ; Ethmoid, 1 female 66 ; Thyroid, 1 female 54 ; Mediastinum, 1 male 70.

The causes of all the deaths in the district during 1937 of males and females are shown in the following table supplied by the Registrar-General.

Causes of Death in Houghton le-Spring Urban District during 1937.

Causes of Death.				Male		Female.
All Causes	....			194	....	167
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	....			0	....	0
2. Measles ....	....	....	....	1	....	0
3. Scarlet Fever ....	....	....	....	1	....	0
4. Whooping Cough ....	....	....	....	0	....	1
5. Diphtheria ....	....	....	....	2	....	1
6. Influenza ....	....	....	....	7	....	7
7. Encephalitis lethargica ....	....	....	....	0	....	0
8. Cerebro-spinal fever ....	....	....	....	1	....	0
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	....			7	....	7
10. Other tuberculous diseases ....	....	....	....	2	....	1
11. Syphilis ....	....	....	....	0	....	0
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis				3	....	0
13. Cancer, malignant disease ....	....	....	....	18	....	18
14. Diabetes....	....	....	....	0	....	7
15. Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	....	....	....	9	....	11
16. Heart disease ....	....	....	....	50	....	47
17. Aneurysm ....	....	....	....	0	....	0
18. Other circulatory diseases ....	....	....	....	10	....	1
19. Bronchitis ....	....	....	....	11	....	7
20. Pneumonia (all forms) ....	....	....	....	12	....	6
21. Other respiratory diseases ....	....	....	....	0	....	2
22. Peptic Ulcer ....	....	....	....	0	....	0
23. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ....	....	....	....	1	....	4
24. Appendicitis ....	....	....	....	2	....	0
25. Cirrhosis of liver ....	....	....	....	0	....	0
26. Other diseases of liver, etc, ....	....	....	....	0	....	2
27. Other digestive diseases ....	....	....	....	4	....	2
28. Nephritis acute and chronic ....	....	....	....	2	....	6
29. Puerperal sepsis ....	....	....	....	0	....	1
30. Other puerperal causes ....	....	....	....	0	....	1
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc. ....	....	....	....	14	....	9
32. Senility ....	....	....	....	9	....	11
33. Suicide ....	....	....	....	2	....	0
34. Other violence ....	....	....	....	9	....	2
35. Other defined diseases ....	....	....	....	16	....	12
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown ....	....	....	....	1	....	1

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937.

(England and Wales, London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns).

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	125 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administra- tive County.	Houghton-le-Spring Urban District.
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
BIRTHS—					
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3	18.9
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54	0.60
DEATHS—					
All Causes	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3	13.44
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers }	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.03
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.10
Influenza	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.47
Violence	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51	0.43
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00
Scarlet fever	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09	2.5
Diphtheria	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93	3.66
Enteric fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.00
Erysipelas	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44	0.57
Pneumonia	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18	1.87
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	58	62	55	60	77.1
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age }	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0	8.7
MATERNAL MORTALITY—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.97	}	Not available.		1.69
Others	2.26				1.69
Total	3.23				3.38
Rates per 1,000 Total Births(i.e. Live & Still)					
MATERNAL MORTALITY—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.94	}	Not available.		1.75
Others	2.17				1.75
Total	3.11				3.50
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Puerperal fever Puerperal pyrexia }	13.93	17.59	11.52	{ 4.15 14.34	1.75

There were 12 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1937, being equivalent to a death rate of .41 from pulmonary and .06 from non-pulmonary as compared with death rates of .58 and .11 for the country as a whole.

The chief cause of death during 1937 was, as in former years, heart disease, some 97 persons dying therefrom — equivalent to a death rate of 3.29, or 28.9 per cent. of the total deaths was due to heart disease.

Not infrequently heart disease is a sequel to rheumatism, pneumonia, or chorea.

Rheumatism is fairly common in this district. In the case of the male population, and probably the men form the majority of the sufferers, the disease is either caused or greatly aggravated by the conditions of work. In the case of children slight pains — which may be neglected by the mother as growing pains — may be a slight attack of rheumatism but sufficient to lay the foundation for heart disease in later years.

Sanitary Administration.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

See beginning of Report.

Nursing in the Home.

Maternity cases are generally attended by midwives who are appointed by the County Council, who have appointed sufficient midwives in the County to attend all confinements where there is inability to meet the expense of a qualified nurse.

Ordinary cases of sickness and surgical dressings are attended to by district nurses employed by local branches of the Nursing Association. Three branches operate in the district, Philadelphia and District, Lumley and Fence Houses and Houghton-le-Spring.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations are performed at the Public Health Laboratory, Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and in the case of diphtheria, typhoid fever, tuberculosis and Wasserman's the examinations are paid for by the County Council. The only expense against the local practitioner is cost

of conveyance. Results of examination in suspected cases of diphtheria can be had the following day if swabs are sent by bus reaching Newcastle before 5 p.m. and the Laboratory telephoned on despatch as they collect from the Omnibus depot.

Specimens of water, milk and other foods may be taken by the Medical Officer, Sanitary Inspectors, or the County Food and Drug Inspectors for examination at Armstrong College or by the County Analyst.

Hospitals.

The Sunderland Royal Infirmary and the Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary and the Public Assistance Institutions treat the ordinary cases of illness and accident.

Tuberculosis is occasionally treated in these hospitals but the sanatoria to which the County Council send the patients are Wolsingham, Stanhope, Helmington Row, Earl's House, Seaham Hall and Stannington and occasionally to the Rural District Isolation Hospital, Sunderland.

Infectious diseases are, when necessary treated in the Council's own Isolation Hospital. That at Junction Row, Philadelphia is kept constantly open but Dene House Hospital, Houghton-le-Spring was closed after the formation of the new district. In the event of any big epidemic it could be opened on 24—48 hours notice. Infectious cases requiring operation are sent to the Borough Sanatorium, Sunderland, where a bed is reserved for the use of this Council.

During 1937, 157 patients and one contact were admitted to the Northern Isolation Hospital, 15 being patients from Durham Rural District. 16 patients were admitted to Dene House Hospital.

Smallpox is treated in the Hospital—Alexandria Hospital, West Rainton, conjointly owned by Houghton and Hetton Urban Districts.

Maternity cases are received in the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, the County Maternity Home, Bishop Auckland, Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, or in the Durham or Chester-le-Street Public Assistance Institutions.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Council own two ambulances, one of which is kept at the depot at Herrington Burn for ordinary sickness or accident

and the other is kept at the Northern Isolation Hospital and is used chiefly for the conveyance of infectious diseases. It is occasionally (after thorough disinfection) used when the other is not available. There have been 756 journeys performed during the year 1937, 150 being before March 31st, 1937, when the ambulance was in use in the old Rural-area and 606 journeys between April 1st and December 31st in the present Urban district.

It is available for the conveyance of non-infectious, sickness and accident cases at a very reasonable charge. Application for the use of same must be made to the ambulance driver or in exceptional cases to the Clerk of the Council and in all cases must be accompanied by the certificate of a doctor or police constable. The Ambulance Station is situated at Devon Street, New Herrington, telephone East Herrington 3137.

In addition the motor ambulances maintained by the Colliery Company are in frequent use.

The ambulance was originally purchased (new) in January, 1931 since when it has been in constant use.

Public Mortuary.

A public mortuary is situated at Herrington Burn for deaths due to non-infectious cases. It is available for post-mortem examinations when such are necessary even if the death has occurred in a private house.

Any infectious cases can be dealt with at the mortuary at the Isolation Hospital, Philadelphia.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

These were all maintained and administered by the County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

There are two centres in the area—one in Newbottle Street, Houghton-le-Spring serves the mothers in Houghton-le-Spring, Newbottle, Fence Houses and Colliery Row, and the rest of the district is served by the Herrington Centre, at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Herrington Burn.

The Houghton-le-Spring centre is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, that at Herrington Burn on Tuesdays.

School Clinics.

Children at school are periodically examined by the Assistant School Medical Officers and where necessary the Health Visitors follow up with home visits.

Very minor ailments of children from the Urban District may be treated at the School Clinics which are held in the Child Welfare Centre, Houghton-le-Spring under the supervision of a School Medical Officer. All necessary dental treatment can be obtained at the School Clinic at a nominal cost, the dentist being a fully qualified dental surgeon. Sunray treatment is also available at this centre for all children up to school leaving age when prescribed by the Child Welfare or School Medical Officers.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

Sherburn Hospital serves Fence Houses and Dubmire. Women and children, Tuesdays 9 a.m. Men, Fridays 9 a.m.

Sunderland, West Sunnyside, serves the rest of the district. Women and children, Thursdays 10 a.m. Men, Wednesdays 10 a.m.

Venereal Diseases.

The County Council have made arrangements with the following hospitals for the treatment of venereal disease in patients from this area as follows :

Royal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Royal Infirmary, Sunderland.

County Hospital, Durham.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The water supply during the year was satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity. Samples of water taken from the reservoirs in January, February, May, August, September, November and December were bacteriologically examined and in each case the analysts report indicated that the water was of a high order of organic purity and of good and wholesome quality for human consumption.

Mains were extended on the Hetton Road Housing Estate at a cost of £531 and on the Chester Road Housing Estate at a cost of £856. Mains were also extended in other parts of the district to supply new properties.

226 notices were served upon owners of property requesting them to remedy defective services. 19 defective services from main to stop tap were renewed.

Drainage and Sewerage.

New sewers were constructed in connection with the erection of various Housing Schemes in the district.

The construction of the Gillas Lane—Dairy Lane Sewer at an estimated cost of £2,544 was commenced in September and good progress had been made by the end of the year.

Sewage Disposal Works.

The Flint Mill Sewage Disposal Works continues to function satisfactorily.

The Contractors are proceeding satisfactorily with the construction of the Sedgeleth Sewage Works, which it is hoped will be ready for opening in the early Spring.

The Consulting Engineers, have in hand, the scheme for new works at South Biddick.

Considerable attention has been given to the small works at William Henry Pit.

Rivers and Streams.

No complaint of pollution of streams have been received.

Fire Appliances.

Hand appliances and hose have been purchased and stored at the Newbottle Street and Herrington Burn Depots.

Adulteration, etc.

It was not necessary to take any action under any of the Acts or Regulations to prevent the adulteration of food.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Milk and water are examined at the Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, or by the County Analyst who examines all other food samples taken.

Nutrition.

No action has been taken by the Local Authority to teach the public about the importance of nutrition and increase their knowledge thereon. No special investigation has been made on the subject apart from that which is being carried out by the Unemployment Bureau throughout the country.

Shellfish.

There are no layings in the district.

Schools.

The schools in the district have been duly inspected and with two exceptions the sanitary conditions were satisfactory.

The two exceptions are (a) drinking water convenience (b) towels.

(a) With few exceptions the schools in the area have no drinking fountains. The scholars drink water (when desired) from a communal cup or from the tap. This is most undesirable for obvious reasons and the Education Authority should be urged to instal drinking fountains in all schools at the earliest possible moment.

(b) There is by no means a sufficient supply of towels for the children drying their hands and in several schools the towels were observed to be in a dirty condition. Although it is impossible to reduce it to figures, undoubtedly economy in laundry may be the means of spreading disease and become costly in the end.

There has been no need to close any school on account of infectious disease during 1937. Contacts of the various infectious diseases were requested not to attend school for the usual quarantine period.

When several cases of diphtheria occurred in one class at New Herrington, the School Medical Officer kindly swabbed the whole class present and your Medical Officer swabbed the absentees with the result that four carriers were discovered and excluded until clear.

Closet Accommodation.

The number of each type of convenience in use at the end of 1937 is as follows :—

Water Closets	...	...	...	5178
Ash-Closets	...	...	...	2515
Privy Middens	...	...	...	36

During the year the Council carried out by contract three conversion schemes involving the following houses :— Grasswell 178, Fence Houses 262, Herrington 284. The Commissioner for Special Areas gave a 75% grant of the cost payable by the Council.

Scavenging.

The district is scavenged partly by contract and partly by direct labour. The following report was submitted to the Council and as a result it was decided to undertake the work of refuse collection by direct labour throughout the whole of the district.

REPORT ON REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The question of refuse collection and disposal has been carefully considered and the following details are submitted for your consideration :—

Existing Arrangements.

Collection :—

The district is comprised of approximately 7,729 houses. Of these 2,802 comprising Houghton and part of the Fence Houses Ward are scavenged by the Council's own motor vehicles at a cost of approximately 14/7 per house per annum. The village of Newbottle together with Sunnyside and the Homelands Estate is scavenged by the Council's horse drawn vehicles. The number of houses scavenged is 752 and the cost 13/2 per house per annum. In the remainder of the district approximately 4,175 houses are scavenged by private contractors employing either motor or horse drawn vehicles. The contracts are of twelve months' duration, and expire on the 31st of March next. The prices vary according to local conditions but give an average of 11/- per house per annum. The cost has fluctuated considerably and reached the peak in 1922-23 when the average cost per house was 22/-.

Disposal :—

Only in those districts where the work has been undertaken by the Council's employees has controlled tipping been in operation. In many cases contractors have been dependent on farmers for securing tips. These are often of a seasonal character and difficulties have frequently arisen. In addition the development of building has definitely made it necessary to abandon tips previously used and obtain others further removed from habitation.

The following are details of the districts as at present constituted together with the various costs.

SCAVENGING COSTS.

September, 1937.

Ward No.	District	Contractor	No. of Houses	Price per House	Total
	No.				
1	2 (St. Aidan's)	G. Barker	328	11/0	180 8 0
1	3 (Fenton Ter.)	G. Barker	220	10/6	115 10 0
1	4 (Old Rows)	G. Barker	145	10/6	76 2 6
1	5 (George St.)	G. Barker	186	10/6	97 13 0
			879		469 13 0
3	7 (Fence Houses)	H. S. Simpson	434	9/6	206 3 0
3	8 (Dubmire)	G. W. Thompson	412	10/6	216 6 0
			846		422 9 0
4	Newbottle Village	Direct Labour	752	13/2	496 1 4
4	10 (Grasswell)	T. Tubman	190	10/0	95 0 0
4	13 (Philadelphia)	R. M. Beaumont	177	12/6	110 12 6
4	14 (Success)	A. Smith	143	13/6	96 10 6
			1262		798 4 4
2	16 (New Penshaw)	R. Ormston	290	10/6	152 5 0
2	17 (Lambton Ter.)	J. M. Oliver to 30th June			24 19 9
		R. Job from 1st July	238	10/0	119 0 0
2	18 (Old Penshaw)	R. Ormston	423	9/0	190 7 0
2	19 (Park Estate)	J. M. Oliver	536	10/9	288 2 0
2	20 (Eden Ter.)	F. Taylor & Sons	453	10/9	243 9 9
			1940		1018 3 6
	Total Late Rural		4927	11/0	2708 9 10
	Houghton Ward Colliery Row		2802	14/7	2094 0 0

Future Proposals :—

It will be appreciated that the subject must be considered from two stand points, firstly, the collection of the refuse, and secondly, the ultimate disposal of the same.

Collection of Refuse :—

It is generally accepted that motor drawn vehicles are more economical where the average distance to the place of deposit exceeds one mile. In the new districts the distances would vary from 1.125 to 2.5 miles and consequently motor haulage is recommended in the proposals submitted.

Disposal of Refuse :—

Probably the most satisfactory method of disposal is by incineration. This, however, involves costly plant in the form of a Refuse Destructor and additional staff, and would probably increase the estimated cost submitted herewith by 15 to 20%.

An alternative method is by means of controlled tips. After making a survey of the district it appears possible that this system can be satisfactorily employed. In this connection consideration has been given to certain unsatisfactory conditions arising from previous tipping arrangements. As a result it is suggested that in addition to the controlled tips already acquired, a new tip should be secured to serve Penshaw District. No suitable place of deposit is available in the immediate vicinity of Herrington or Shiney Row. It is therefore suggested that efforts should be made to secure a suitable quarry tip situate on the fringe of the District near Penshaw North Farm. This would serve for the Penshaw District, and it is intended that the Herrington Refuse should be conveyed to the Sedgeleth tip. Assuming that the suggested new tip at Penshaw can be acquired on reasonable terms it would seem that ample provision for the district would be assured for at least ten years.

Organisation.

In formulating a scheme for the district it is not proposed to seriously interfere with the existing arrangements which are working smoothly. Consequently it is intended that the three vehicles and staff operating the Houghton Ward and part of the Fence Houses Ward should continue to do so with only a slight alteration. This will necessitate a small district at Dubmire, but it is expected that this vehicle will be kept fully occupied in

assisting in the Penshaw area where the districts are large, and the average haulage 2 miles. This vehicle may also be available in the case of emergency due to mechanical breakdown or overhaul of any of the vehicles.

The following are details of the proposed districts :—

Ward	Houses	WCs	ACs	Total	Veh.	Staff		
HERRINGTON—								
2 St. Aidan's	321	285	36					
3 Fenton Terrace	216	212	4					
4 Old Rows	144	1	143					
5 Travers Street	184	38	146					
				865	1	1	—	1
PENSHAW—								
16 New Penshaw	290	161	129					
17 Lambton Terrace	238	8	230					
18 Old Penshaw	442	113	329					
				970	1	1	—	2
19 Park Estate	561	328	235					
20 Chester Road	444	111	333					
				1005	1	1	—	2
NEWBOTTLE—								
Village	535	102	420					
13 Philadelphia	167	6	161					
14 Success	146	25	121					
				848	1	1	—	1
10 Grasswell	196	196	—					
Sunniside	156	156	—					
Homelands	61	61	—					
7 Fence HousesWard	439	433	6					
				852	1	1	—	2
FENCE HOUSES—								
8 Dubmire	387	47	340					
Colliery Row	105							
				492	1	1	1	—
HOUGHTON—								
Colliery Row	302							
Houghton	2421							
				2723	3	3	3	3

Staff.

Three men are attached to each of the present motor vehicles, viz. driver, spare driver and filler. Since the driver is in control practically the whole time it appears to me that an

invidious distinction is made as between the spare driver and filler since they are both engaged on similar work. To obviate this analogy the estimate submitted is based on a team of one driver, and either one or two fillers to each wagon.

Vehicles.

In view of the travel distance in some districts it appears desirable that vehicles of a faster type than those often employed should be considered.

Garages.

These should be in a position convenient to the district and the men employed. To ensure this it is suggested that two depots should be established. For the Newbottle and Herrington districts the present stabling at Newbottle could be altered to accommodate the three vehicles.

The other depot should be situate in Penshaw or Shiney Row, and this could probably be procured by the renting or purchase of existing premises. If these are required I should like your authority to commence negotiations as soon as possible.

In connection with the proposed Depot for Penshaw there is an existing building situate near Penshaw Station which was previously used as a foundry. These are commodious premises and though in disrepair owing to being out of use, they would be well adapted for the purpose required.

Petrol Pumps.

It would probably affect a saving if petrol storage tanks and pumps were installed at each of the garages. Otherwise there will be a waste of time in filling up and the price of the petrol will be more.

ESTIMATED COST.

	Staff Three Men	Staff Two Men	Vehicles
VEHICLES—			
Cost say £350—7 years loan ...			66 0 0
Garage — Petrol Pump ...			20 0 0
License			30 0 0
Insurance			10 0 0
Running Costs—			
Petrol and Oil			70 0 0
Tyres and Repairs ...			35 0 0
			<hr/> 231 0 0
STAFF—			
Wages—Driver £3 6 0			
Wages—Filler £2 16 0			
Wages—Filler £2 16 0			
			<hr/> £8 18 0
53 Weeks	471 14 0		
Wages—Driver and 1 Filler			
£6 2 0			
53 Weeks		323 6 0	
<hr/>			
Three vehicles (with staff of 3 men)			
Total cost per vehicle	702 14 0		2108 2 0
Three vehicles (with staff of 2 men)			
Total cost per vehicle		554 6 0	1662 18 0
Total estimated cost			<hr/> 3771 0 0
<hr/>			
The total number to be scav- enged is 5,032, giving a price per annum of			0 15 0

Estimated Cost.

In submitting an estimate of the cost that would be incurred in the event of your deciding to undertake direct labour scavenging throughout the whole district an explanation is necessary on one or two points. With regard to garage accommodation, an average annual cost has been included. Actually this may necessitate an initial expenditure for conversion or purchase of buildings, which would be partly offset by the sale of horses and carts. The variation in wages rates should also

be noted. The two men employed at Newbottle are paid £3/10/- per week. The rates of those employed at Houghton are as follows :— Driver £3/6/-, spare driver £2/18/-, filler £2/14/-. The revenue from Trade Refuse is small and has not been taken into account. A brief analysis of the running costs of a motor vehicle may prove informative.

The following relates to the Fordson, for a period of 12 months.

Loan Charges	...	...	£73
Insurance and Tax		...	36
Petrol	...	...	71
Repairs and Oil	...	...	71
Garage	...	...	15
			<hr/> £266

This may appear high but it will be appreciated that on a commercial vehicle of this type the tax, running costs and depreciation are high.

Details of the estimated cost are given. These show an estimated annual cost per house of fifteen shillings, against the present average price of eleven shillings. Comparative costs can be ascertained by reference to the "Scavenging Costs" Table, earlier in this report.

Conclusion.

Whilst the work of contract scavenging has been performed in a fairly satisfactory manner, the following observations are submitted :—

The present system of letting by annual contract has many drawbacks and is discouraging to the conscientious contractor. Another unsatisfactory feature of the system is that whereby the condition of accepting the lowest tender has been imposed on the Council. Too often uneconomic prices are submitted by men without experience, and this results in a violation of working conditions and wages clauses.

More important still this vicious system of undercutting tends to bring into the work an inferior type of workman. The importance of the cleansing service should be recognised and any system should provide for the employment of the right type of men who will carry out the work in a cleanly and efficient manner, and who in return should receive fair wages for their services.

Summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during
the year 1937.

I. Public Health Acts.				Number of informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses	}	Foul Conditions	...	...	...
and		Structural Defects	148	35	140	
Schools		Overcrowding	22	...	18	
Lodging-houses	...	...	1	...	1
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	40	...	34
Cowsheds	...	...	26	2	24
Bakehouses	...	...	8	...	8
Slaughter-houses	...	...	22	6	20
Ashpits and Privies...	...	...	124	1312	755
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	43	15	43
Waterclosets	...	...	77	...	77
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	8	...	8
House	}	Defective Traps ...	12	...	12	
Drainage		No disconnection from sewers	...	...	...
		Other Faults	25	...	25	
Water Supply	...	...	40	14	26
Pigsties ...	...	...	6	...	6
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	1	...	1
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	6	2	4
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS				609	1386	1202

11.—Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks.
Samples of Water taken for Analysis . Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use Seizures of Unwholesome Food ... Convictions for exposing or selling Un- wholesome Food Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis Samples found Adulterated 	10 88 11 ...	 Milk
III.—Precautions against Infectious Disease. Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease Prosecutions for exposure of infected per- sons or things Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things 	 176 158	
IV.—General. Number of New Houses erected during year Number of such Houses occupied during year Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ... Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets Ash-closets converted into Water-closets ... Total number of Water-closets in District.. Total number of Ash-closets in District .. Total number of Ash-pit privies in District...	 296 296 724 5178 2515 36	

Special Sanitary Conditions.

Town Planning.

Your district forms part of the area planned under the North East Durham Joint Town Planning Scheme. The chief object is to regulate future development on lines more desirable than have prevailed in the past.

Public Conveniences.

These have been erected at the following places :—
Houghton, Herrington Burn, Newbottle, Fence Houses, Colliery Row, Shiney Row and Penshaw Station.

Further proposals are under consideration.

Public Ambulance Station and Mortuary.

These premises are centrally situate at Herrington Burn and serve the whole of your area. They were opened for use on 1st October, 1931, and the fact that the ambulance is in daily use indicates that it filled a long felt want.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are none situate in your Council's area, but the provision of same is receiving consideration.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Informal action was taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, with regard to gipsy encampments in the district, and formal action with regard to Caravans, and it is hoped to have all these removed to suitable houses when the Slum Clearance programme is carried out.

Public Houses — Sanitary Accommodation.

Improvements and alterations have been carried out to urinal and lavatory accommodation to many of the Public Houses.

Cinemas.

Cinemas and places of public entertainment were inspected during the year, and certificates issued as to their satisfactory sanitary condition.

Smoke Abatement.

Complaints are received as to the nuisance caused by burning pit heaps at the Houghton, Lambton and New Herrington Collieries. The Coal Companies are making an effort to abate this nuisance, but up to the present time their efforts have not borne much fruit.

The factory chimneys in the district have given no cause for complaint.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

Several infested properties have been disinfested during the year, by the Sanitary Inspectors with the co-operation of the property owners. However, it must be pointed out that for the eradication of this pest in occupied houses, much depends on the efforts of the tenants themselves, who in many cases are unaware of the methods of dealing with this infestation, and in such cases the Public Health Staff give as much assistance as possible.

Fumigation has been carried out by the use of "Fumoids," sulphur dioxide, and with contact insecticides and sprays.

Where possible all walls and woodworks were stripped before fumigation.

Periodical inspections were made to ensure that the tenants were carrying out the Inspector's instructions as to their keeping the premises clean.

Slum property was inspected before rehousing the tenants on the Council's Housing Estates and if any infestation was found the furniture and houses were disinfested.

		Infested		Disinfested
Number of Council Houses	...	4	...	4
Number of Other Houses	...	33	...	33

PENSHAW.



Chandlers Row Clearance Area.

STATION ROAD ESTATE, PENSHAW.



Oxford Terrace — built on Chandlers Road Site.

Housing Conditions.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1937.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) <i>a</i>) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	2138
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2806
(2)(<i>a</i>) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	326
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	682
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	309
(4) Number of Dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	148

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	140
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	17
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	...	...	...	1347
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—					
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	45
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners					725

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	48
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	6

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	22
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	Nil

Overcrowding.

In spite of the additional accommodation provided by the new houses erected there is still a considerable proportion of the population living under overcrowded conditions.

As a result of the inspections made during the year, the following indicates the prevalence of overcrowding :—

(a)	(I)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	366
	(II)	Number of families dwelling therein	... .. 418
	(III)	Number of persons dwelling therein	... .. 1986
(b)		Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	22
(c)	(I)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	119
	(II)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	... .. 598

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 1

Most of the overcrowding relieved during the year was due to re-housing in Council Houses or the inter-change of tenancies in property owned by the Council and the Colliery Co.

42 houses were built on the Chilton Moor Estate to alleviate overcrowding.

Insanitary Houses.

The following Clearance Areas were dealt with during the year

	Areas		Houses		Persons	
Fence Houses Ward ...	5	...	16	...	56	
Houghton Ward ...	18	...	122	...	432	
Herrington Ward ...	1	...	3	...	8	
Newbottle Ward ...	16	...	111	...	503	
Penshaw Ward ...	2	...	11	...	48	

Action was also taken in respect of 48 individually unfit houses.

In addition a considerable amount of work was entailed in connection with approximately 350 houses in the parishes of Moorsley, Rainton East and Rainton West transferred to the Hetton Urban District, and the areas in Coxgreen and West Herrington transferred to the Sunderland Rural District.

The tenants from the wooden hutments in the Fence Houses Ward were re-housed and the hutments were demolished. Similar action has been commenced in respect of the caravans situate in Houghton Ward and it is hoped that the whole of these will shortly be cleared.

Council Houses.

Statement of Progress.

SITE	No. of houses erected prior to 1937	No. of houses erected during 1937	No. of houses in course of erection at 31st Dec., 1937	Total
Chester Road Estate ...	64	82	...	146
Chilton Moor	56	86	...	142
Colliery Row	64	...	...	64
Grange Estate	80	...	...	80
Hall Lane	65	...	...	65
Hetton Road	150	42	84	276
Hillside... ..	72	...	...	72
Homelands	48	12	...	60
New Penshaw	22	8	...	30
Newtown	82	...	...	82
North Rectory	60	...	...	60
Park Estate	250	18	...	268
Penshaw Hill	58	14	...	72
St. Aidan's	108	...	...	108
Sedgeleth	20	...	...	20
Station Road ... ..	...	26	30	56
Villa No. 1 and 2 ...	176	...	...	176
	1375	288	114	1777

In addition 30 houses at East Rainton and 12 at Rainton Bridge were completed and transferred to the Hetton Urban Council. There were also 10 houses erected at East Herrington which were transferred to the Sunderland Rural Council.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The food supply of the area has received a large amount of supervision, and no effort or time has been spared to obtain good results.

Milk Supply.

Samples of milk have been submitted regularly to Armstrong College for bacteriological examination, and the results have shown an improvement in the cleanliness of the milk.

In cases where the reports were unsatisfactory the dairy methods were kept under close observation, and the dairymen were advised by the Sanitary Inspectors and in the majority of cases improvement was effected.

Samples have been taken from school supplies.

The number of registered cowkeepers and dairymen in the district is 32, 6 of which are Tuberculin Tested Milk (Certified) producers and A " accredited " producers.

The producers and retailers are always ready and willing to co-operate with the Health Department in their efforts to produce a clean, wholesome milk for the public supply, and I wish to express my appreciation for such co-operation.

During the year improvements have been carried out at the following dairy farms :—

Moors Farm — Improvements to dairy.

Low Lambton Farm — Improvements to dairy.

Middle Barnwell Farm — Improvement to byre.

The following is a report by the County Veterinary Officer upon inspections carried out in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District during the year 1937.

1. No. of visits to cowkeepers—75.
2. No. of cows examined—1420.
3. General condition and type of cows—Very Good.
4. General cleanliness of cows—Good.
5. General conditions of Sanitation—Good.
6. Chief methods of milk disposal—Retail.
7. No. of animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order :—

(a) Tuberculosis of the udder or giving T.B. milk ..	4
(b) Other forms of Tuberculosis	7
Total ...	11
8. No. of cases of diseases other than Tuberculosis—22
(chiefly mastitis).

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. A very good class of cow is kept in this district and the general hygienic standard is high. Eleven cases of clinical tuberculosis were dealt with during the year under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order.

Three farms are producing "Accredited " milk and seven farms " T.T." milk.

Two farms are registered under the " Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme."

Slaughter-Houses.

There are 15 licensed slaughter-houses in the district and 32 shops for the sale of meat.

These premises are regularly inspected and the inspection of carcasses is very rigid.

The animals slaughtered are generally of a good prime quality, the bulk of them now arrive in motor trucks from the marts and are properly housed and hungered before slaughtering.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The provisions of this Act are strictly enforced in the area and 53 slaughtermen are now registered under the Act.

The following are the approximate number of animals slaughtered during the year.

Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
1084	612	16	2476	1480

making a total of 5,668 of which 84% were inspected.

There were 62 pigs slaughtered by cottagers showing a decrease from last year.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	1084	612	16	2476	1480
Number inspected ...	860	568	14	1980	1350
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	7	28	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than T B. ...	1.25	5.00	—	—	—
T.B. only—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	—	3	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	15	40	—	—	44
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B. ...	1.75	7.00	—	—	3.2

Bakehouses.

There are 17 bakehouses where food is prepared for sale, they are inspected regularly and particular attention is paid to the condition of the premises and conveniences.

Shops Acts, 1934.

Action by the Sanitary Inspectors has been responsible for improvements relating to suitable heating, ventilation and sanitary conveniences in the pursuance of the sanitary section of the above Act.

Factories and Workshops.

The following are the principal places within your district.

1. Philadelphia Engine Works and Repairing Shops.
2. Philadelphia Joinery Works.
3. Durham Collieries Electrical Power Station.
4. Sunderland & District Omnibus Co.
5. Co-operative Stores and Workshops.
6. Gas Works.
7. Joinery Works.
8. Boring Tool Works.
9. Printing.
10. Builders Merchants
11. Candle Making
12. Bakeries
13. Sugar Confectioners

During the year these have been inspected and any nuisances or defects found were remedied without the necessity for formal action.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupier prosecuted (4)
Factories ... (Including Factory Laundries)	30	...	...
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	62	6	...
Workplaces ... (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	...	...	...
Total ...	92	6	...

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Pros- ecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness ...	3	3	...	...
Want of ventilation ...	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ..	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation :—				
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101)...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	6	6	...	...

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During the year 1937 there were 262 cases of infectious diseases notified, including all forms of Tuberculosis. Here again exact comparison is impossible, but the approximate number of cases of infectious diseases in the area, now forming the Urban District, for the year 1936 was 310 hence the decrease, though not so marked as in 1936, is distinctly favourable.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever was again epidemic in the district, although there was a very marked decrease in the number of cases, viz., 74 for 1937 as against approximately 178 in 1936.

Wherever home conditions were suitable isolation was permitted at home and in no case could any return case be attributed to such treatment. There is still a feeling amongst certain local practitioners that home isolation should never be allowed but I have never found in all my experience that a doctor has carried infection from one patient to another. 19 cases were isolated at home and 55 in hospital.

Modern opinion tends towards isolation for a period of four weeks only. Time has proved that, in a district such as this, a curtailed period of isolation is only practicable in selected cases — where there are no other children in the house and where parents can be trusted not to expose the patient in any crowded place such as bus, picture house or church for a further three weeks or so. After the first three weeks the chief danger of infection is from discharges, such as running ear or nose and observation of cases isolated in hospital has shown there is a danger of such complications starting later than the fourth week.

Only one case of puerperal pyrexia was notified in the district during the year and no relationship could be traced to scarlet fever, or sore throat without rash.

There were 34 cases of scarlet fever in Penshaw Ward, 17 in Houghton Ward, 9 in Newbottle Ward and 7 each in Herrington and Fence Houses Wards.

The Registrar-General shows in his Return one death due to scarlet fever. This must have been a patient residing in part of the old Rural district which was transferred to another area, as no deaths have occurred directly or indirectly from scarlet fever in the present Urban District.

The case incidence for the district is 2.5 per 1,000 population which compares favourably with that of the County which was approximately 3.66 per 1,000 population, that for England and Wales being 2.33.

The case incidence for the various wards is 4.87 Penshaw, 1.88 Houghton, 1.78 Newbottle, 1.48 Fence Houses and 1.84 Herrington, each per 1,000 population.

Diphtheria.

There were 80 cases of diphtheria in the district during 1937. In several instances definite contact with other patients could be traced and in Herrington Ward during September one class was particularly affected. The School Medical Officer took swabs from all the remaining pupils — seven having been admitted to hospital — and four others were found to be carrying the germ. These were immediately isolated until clear and trouble forthwith ceased.

One case was isolated at home, 78 were isolated in the Northern Isolation Hospital, Philadelphia, and one in the Borough Sanatorium, Sunderland, where it was sent for a tracheotomy operation.

Although a considerable number of cases were acutely ill on admission there were only three deaths. This was most probably due to the prompt use of antitoxin by practitioners outside. Antitoxin is supplied free and with two exceptions good use is made thereof, since it is frequently given in cases of doubt whilst waiting for the bacteriological report. It may be obtained at any hour of the day or night at the Northern Isolation Hospital.

The County Council pay for the examination of swabs which are sent by medical practitioners to the Public Health Laboratory, Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. During the year approximately 145 swabs were thus sent for examination, 44 being positive.

Of the 78 patients treated in the Northern Hospital three died.

The case incidence of diphtheria in the district was 2.71, as compared with 3.9 for the County and 1.49 for the Country

There were 22 cases in Houghton Ward, 25 in Herrington (including the four carriers in school), 13 in Penshaw, 11 in Fence Houses, and 9 in Newbottle Wards.

The case incidence in the wards is therefore Houghton 2.44, Herrington 6.59, Penshaw 1.86, Fence Houses 2.33, and Newbottle 1.78.

Immunisation.

Of the 80 cases of diphtheria, 8 children had been immunised, one being immunised within a period which was too short for immunity to have completely developed. All children who had been so treated some time previously, with one exception, had a very mild attack. By a further injection — a test known as the Shick test — it would be possible to tell definitely whether protection was complete after immunisation, but owing to the general dislike to such injections this has not been carried out, lest it should deter parents from having their children protected.

In November the Council decided to offer immunisation to children of school age and under. Consent was obtained for over 1,000 children to be treated. The majority were living in the Houghton Ward where previously only 36 had been immunised under the Urban District Council's scheme. Parke Davis' Diphtheria Toxoid Alum Precipitated was used, one injection being given. Treatment was carried out by the patients' family doctors at their surgeries or in the homes as desired.

At the end of 1937 there were 1911 children in the district who had received treatment between March, 1935, and December 1937. A considerable number of consent forms were in the hands of doctors at the end of the year owing to their not having had time to complete the work and delay was also occasioned by an outbreak of measles commencing in December.

Influenza.

There was a fairly mild epidemic of Influenza at the commencement of the year and cases again began to be more numerous about December. 14 deaths occurred in which influenza was stated to be the primary cause of death and there were 18 deaths from pneumonia (all forms) a certain number of which were secondary to influenza, an increase compared with 1936.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia and Erysipelas.

An epidemic of measles of fair severity commenced towards the end of the year. A considerable number of cases also occurred in the first quarter. The Registrar-General records one death due to measles — this was not in the new Urban District so must have been in that part of the old Rural transferred elsewhere.

No local action has been taken in the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is no doubt that measles serum is of very great value for this purpose but unfortunately there is by no means a sufficient supply in the county to meet the demands for it. As it becomes more plentiful its use in the district must be seriously considered. It will be necessary probably to supply it free, at least in a considerable number of cases, like diphtheria anti-toxin.

Whooping-cough became mildly epidemic on a few occasions but was generally of a mild type. The one death registered as being due to whooping-cough did not occur in this district.

No cases of measles or whooping-cough were admitted to the isolation hospital as such. One case of measles and diphtheria was admitted having been actually notified as scarlet fever. There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles and whooping-cough is of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

The number of cases of pneumonia and erysipelas notified was approximately the same as in 1936, there being 55 cases of pneumonia and 17 cases of erysipelas notified during 1937. The case rate for pneumonia and erysipelas and the distribution thereof is shown in the tables hereafter.

School Notification of Disease.

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools. As already mentioned swabs were taken of pupils in a class at New Herrington School and four were found to be carrying diphtheria germs. This was done at the request of your Medical Officer.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1937.

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1937.

Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	..	..	..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	74	55	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	80	79	3
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	..	..	..	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	11	1	—
Erysipelas	..	..	..	17	—	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	55	—	18
Ophthalmia neonatorum	..	..	..	2	—	—
TOTALS	..	..	..	239	135	21

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.:— the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.

Case Rates for Infectious Diseases — Notifications per 1,000 population.

Figures for England and Wales, 148 Smaller Towns are Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns. Those for Houghton Urban District are corrected.

Disease	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	Durham County	Houghton Urban District	Case Rates in Wards				
					Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	2.33	2.42	3.66	2.5	1.88	4.87	1.78	1.48	1.84
Diphtheria	1.49	1.38	3.9	2.71	2.44	1.86	1.78	2.33	6.59
Enteric Fever	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.37	0.34	0.51	0.57	0.44	1.14	0.19	0.21	0.79
Pneumonia	1.36	1.20	1.58	1.87	1.78	2.15	1.59	1.48	2.37

Prevention of Blindness.

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.

There has been no action taken during 1937 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

18 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 10 males and 8 females were notified during the year, also 14 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being 8 males and 6 females.

The Registrar-General states that 7 males and 7 females died from pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 males and 1 female from non-pulmonary forms. The locally compiled returns — after due allowance has been made for inward and outward transfers — show that 7 males and 5 females died from pulmonary and 1 male and 1 female from non-pulmonary forms of the disease.

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis notified in 1937 according to sex and ward.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Houghton ...	1	1	1	3	6
Penshaw ...	3	5	2	1	11
Newbottle ...	1	2	...	1	4
Fence Houses...	3	...	2	1	6
Herrington ...	2	...	3	...	5
Totals ...	10	8	8	6	32

The following table shows the various age-periods, for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred.

Age Period		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 years	..	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—
15 years	..	3	2	4	3	2	2	—	1
25 years	..	3	2	—	2	3	1	—	—
35 years	..	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
45 years	..	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55 years	..	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	..	10	8	8	6	7	5	1	1

Occupation.

In the case of pulmonary tuberculosis :

7 were housewives, 6 were miners, 2 were unemployed, 1 was a shop assistant, 1 was at school, and 1 was an infant.

In the case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis :

3 were housewives, 6 were at school, 3 were miners, 1 was a domestic, and 1 had no occupation.

Site of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases.

9 cervical glands, 2 spine, 1 intestine, 1 hip and 1 meninges.

Social Conditions of Patients Suffering from Tuberculosis.

Nearly 60% of the patients suffering from tuberculosis share their rooms with one or more persons, the majority also sharing the bed. This is definitely undesirable in cases of pulmonary tuberculosis or where there are discharging wounds and this should always be borne in mind in allocating houses. Financially the family incomes is that of the average working man in the district, but in a long drawn out illness such as tuberculosis the extras necessary for the patient frequently negatives the ability to pay rent for a larger house.

This is probably one reason why names of families with a patient suffering from tuberculosis are rarely found on the application forms for council houses.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patient or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment. There was only one death from tuberculosis during the year which had not been notified — probably the exact diagnosis was made on the operating table, and the patient died soon after.

Examination of Sputa.

Sputa are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

During the year 28 specimens were sent by local practitioners, of which 5 were positive and 18 negative. The Assistant Tuberculosis Medical Officers sent 44 specimens from patients resident in the area. Of these 8 were positive and 36 negative.

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